

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TUNIS 01582 091526Z

ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO USDOC WASHDC

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UNCLAS TUNIS 1582

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP BTRA TS

SUBJECT: FOREIGN VISITOR PROGRAM: TUNISIAN PLASTIC MANU-
FACTURERS

1. GROUP OF SIX TUNISIAN PLASTICS MANUFACTURERS, HEADED BY MR. SAKOK BEN SEDRINE, PRESIDENT OF A LARGE PLANT (COPLACEL) AND OF THE FEDERATION OF PLASTICS MANUFACTURERS, PLANS TO VISIT THE U.S. FOR A PERIOD OF 7-10 DAYS IN MAY, 1977. GROUP WISHES TO MEET WITH SUPPLIERS OF PLASTIC RESINS, PLASTIC MANUFACTURING EQUIPMENT, MOLDS, INJECTION EQUIPMENT, ETC., AND TO VISIT PLANTS TO SEE LATEST TECHNOLOGY IN PLASTIC INDUSTRY. GROUP WILL REPRESENT LARGE OPERATIONS AND ARE POTENTIAL MAJOR CUSTOMERS FOR U.S. PLASTICS TECHNOLOGY AND RAW MATERIALS.

2. TUNISIAN PLASTICS INDUSTRY IS NOW TOTALLY DEPENDENT ON EUROPEAN SUPPLIERS AND TECHNOLOGY. SUBJECT VISIT IS AT THE INITIATIVE OF BEN SEDRINE WHO WISHES TO BROADEN EXPOSURE OF TUNISIAN INDUSTRY TO POSSIBILITIES IN U.S. IN COMPARATIVE TERMS, TUNISIAN INDUSTRY IS SMALL, BUT CURRENT 5TH DEVELOPMENT PLAN PROVIDES FOR EVENTUAL TRIPLING OF CAPACITY THROUGH INVESTMENT OF MORE THAN \$25 MILLION.

3. EMBASSY BELIEVES THIS INITIATIVE SHOULD BE SUPPORTED DESPITE SMALL SIZE OF PROJECTION MISSION GROUP. REQUEST USDOC OUTLINE PROGRAMMING POSSIBILITIES FOR A 7-10 DAY VISIT, POSSI-
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PAGE 02 TUNIS 01582 091526Z

BLY CENTERED ON ONE OR TWO CENTERS OF PLASTICS INDUSTRY TO MINIMIZE TRAVEL TIME. IF POSSIBLE, GROUP COULD BEGIN IN WASHINGTON WITH VISIT TO USDOC AND TRADE ASSOCIATIONS. GROUP WILL BASICALLY SPEAK ONLY FRENCH, THEREFORE ABILITY OF VISIT SITES TO HANDLE FRENCH SHOULD BE DETERMINED.

4. REQUEST USDOC PROVIDED PROPOSED ITINERARY TO EMBASSY AS

SOON AS POSSIBLE SO GROUP CAN PLAN VISIT. EMBASSY RECALLS
THAT FEATURES OF BUSINESS VISITOR PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTED BY
COMMERCE REPS DURING OCT 1976 JOING COMMISSION MEETINGS, AS
EXCELLENT MEANS TO ACQUAINT TUNISIAN BUSINESS GROUPS WITH
ADVANTAGES OF U.S. PRODUCTS AND TECHNOLOGY.
MULCAHY

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